

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Public Reprimand)	
)	
of the Educator Certificate of)	CONSENT ORDER OF PUBLIC REPRIMAND
)	
Rozlyn D. Dreher)	
)	
Certificate # 205680)	

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on September 9, 2003. On August 20, 2003, the State Department of Education (Department) sent a notice of the possible suspension or revocation of her South Carolina Educator Certificate (certificate) to Ms. Rozlyn D. Dreher by certified mail, restricted delivery, and return receipt requested. Ms. Dreher received this notice as evidenced by a signed postal receipt and did not request a hearing. Ms. Dreher agreed to accept the Department's proposal to resolve this matter without a hearing by agreeing to the following terms: (1) a public reprimand will be issued by the State Board, (2) she agrees that this public reprimand will be reported to all school districts in South Carolina with the grounds listed as "unprofessional conduct," and (3) this order will be maintained as a public record in the Office of General Counsel of the Department. After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to issue a Consent Order of Public Reprimand on the terms set forth above.

Ms. Dreher has four years of teaching experience, but only taught in South Carolina during the 2002-2003 school year. Ms. Dreher was under contract with Lexington School District Five (District) and was assigned to Irmo Elementary School as a teacher of emotionally disabled students, in a self-contained class. On May 22, 2003 the District placed Ms. Dreher on administrative leave with pay, following an investigation into allegations that she improperly disciplined one of her students by "dumping" him out of his chair and overturning his desk. Ms. Dreher did not return to the classroom and resigned effective May 30, 2003.

Ms. Dreher stated that she was having trouble with a student who was verbally abusive and disturbing others. Ms. Dreher admitted that she made a bad choice when she dumped the student out of his chair and turned over his desk while attempting to escort him to the timeout room. Ms. Dreher states that she did not physically touch the student but the student was not cooperating by removing himself voluntarily. An aide did not witness the event but did see the student on the floor and took over escorting the student to time out. Ms. Dreher stated that after both she and the student had time to cool down they talked and she apologized for her actions. Ms. Dreher repeatedly tried to contact the student's mother to apologize for the next two days without success. The parent of a student who witnessed the incident stated that her daughter

came home from school very upset about what happened. Her daughter told her that Ms. Dreher yelled, "You will not disrespect me!" She stated she never intended to harm the student in any way, and is willing to accept this public reprimand as set forth herein.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

"The State Board of Education may, for just cause, either revoke or suspend the certificate of any person." S.C. Code Ann. §59-25-150 (1990), S.C. Code Ann. §59-25-160 (1990); 24 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-58. The Board finds that the preponderance of the evidence presented supports its conclusion that just cause does not exist to suspend or revoke Ms. Dreher's certificate; however, cause does exist for a Public Reprimand of Ms. Dreher's conduct. Accordingly, the Board issues this Consent Order of Public Reprimand as set forth above.

South Carolina State Board of Education

/S/ Greg Killian

Greg Killian
Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
September 9, 2003

I, Rozlyn D. Dreher, SC Teaching Certificate #205680, do hereby agree to this Order of Public Reprimand, consisting of two pages, and understand that this Order will be presented as signed to the State Board of Education on Tuesday, September 9, 2003.

9/8/03 /S/ Rozlyn D. Dreher
Date Signature